Bud's Copy

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2000

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

There has been a most noticeable increase in interest in the various amateur radio licenses. The holders of Tech Plus licenses are taking the general theory Element 3B then after April 15, will upgrade to General Class without the required 13 WPM. The current Advanced Class licensees are taking the Extra Class license exams and are awaiting 4/15/2000 at which time may be upgraded to Extra Class without taking any further exams. The enthusiasm is rampant. Study material is being purchased by so many hams who wish to upgrade that in most cases the suppliers are having to backorder the General and Extra Class study material.

If you are having problems finding the study material you need, W5YI has a toll free number (1-800-666-9594). Your order will be shipped the same day. It takes two to three days to receive your study material. If I can be of any assistance to you please feel free to contact me either at 267-3450 or 269-0779.

My congratulations to many of our club members who have and will upgrade as a result of the interest generated as a result of the many changes made/being implemented by the FCC.

I have had a number of the fellows to ask if we are going to have a "tailgate" in March. I would like your thoughts on this matter.

Warren and I have discussed Field Day and we need input on the club's desire related to that event.

Hope to see you at the TARC monthly meeting on 2/22/00. Best of 73's

NEW HAM RULES CAUSING ANGER, EXCITEMENT...AND CONFUSION

From 2/1/00 W5YI Report

Word is quickly getting around the amateur community about the FCC's decision in WT Docket No. 98-143 to restructure the Amateur Service. Our telephone has been literally ringing off the hook since December 30 when the FCC announced the new amateur line up...and our e-mailbox quickly filled with comments, criticisms and questions.

Most of them have to do with how the new Rules effect the person calling. They fall into four categories. Those who totally oppose the new structure and rules, those who think they are "great", those who are confused, and amateurs who need help so they can take advantage of them. (See page 2)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEB. 2 WB4DXD BUCK TOMLINSON
FEB. 2 K4CWG BUD HUGHES
FEB. 4 W4LAC JASON RUDISILL
FEB. 14 WB4ZUY WYNN ROSTEK
FEB. 15 KF4ZOL JIMMY EDWARDS
FEB. 15 KF4UXT JIM TYNER
FEB. 16 KD4ZAH JEWEL SANFORD
FEB. 16 KT4CP BUCK THORNE
FEB. 17 000000 AMANDA SIMANO
FEB. 17 KE4YQL CLARA ABELL
FEB. 17 KF4HTB BECKY LEE
FEB. 21 N4WIN WALT FOSTER
FEB. 25 K4IXU JOHN PITTMAN
FEB. 26 KE4ZPA JOHN RENNINGER
FEB. 28 KE4BBL CINDY BORTLE

.....From page 1

We are getting far more inquires from Technician Class amateurs than anyone else. They do not want to lose their credit for the new General Class or the 5 wpm code exam. And they especially want to know how to prove that they passed the requisite examinations. I have fielded dozens of questions on that subject!

Long term Extra Class amateurs are generally dissatisfied (or furious) with the Report and Order. They say it "waters down" their privileges that they worked hard to achieve, that a top code speed of 5 words per minute represents a "dumbing down" or reduction in the standards and that the HF bands will be congested with less than desirable operators. They blame the ARRL and their "economic needs" for allowing it to happen. Actually the League had little to do with the ultimate decision. It was the VECs plan that the Commission adopted.

EXAM CREDIT ARRANGEMENT FOR TECHNICIANS

Effective April 15, 2000 the so-called "Old Techs" theoretically licensed prior to March 21, 1987 are fully qualified for the new General Class without further examination. That is because up until March 21, 1987 all Technicians had to pass 5 wpm code and took the old Element 3 which contained General Class questions. These applicants may NOT mail their application directly to a VEC for FCC for upgrade. Instead they must submit their application to a local VE exam, obtain 3 VE signatures and pay the $6.65 application fee.

Effective April 15, 2000 the so-called "Classic Techs" those Technicians examined between March 21, 1987 and February 14, 1991 get credit for current Element 1A (the new Element 1 and Element 3(A). They may take Element 3(B) - the current General exam - up until April 14 which will not result in an upgrade. But they can hold the CSCE for 3(B) until on or after April 15 for upgrade to the new General Class.

They will not be administered a code exam since the new telegraphy requirement effective April 15, 2000 is 5 wpm - which these applicants have already passed. They must submit another NCVEC Form 605 application, pay the $6.65 application fee and give the CSCE for 3B to the VE team. They will not need to take an examination.

Some applicants (and VE teams) want their VEC to automatically file their upgrades with the FCC after April 15 rather than have to go back to

another VE session. But the FCC wants a second application filed and the upgrade certified by three VEs.

Effective April 15, 2000 the so-called "Codeless Techs" - those Technicians examined after February 14, 1991 - get credit for current Element 2 (Novice written exam) and Element 3A (Technician exam). On or after April 15, 2000 they will be granted exam credit for Element 2. If these amateurs pass 5 wpm code and Element 3(B) (the current General exam) prior to April 15,2000 they will be immediately upgraded to Tech Plus and may use their Element 3B CSCE on or after April 15 to obtain a General Class license. They will have to submit another application to a local VE team, obtain 3 VE signatures and pay another application fee to go from Tech Plus to General. Codeless Techs also may take the current Element 3(B) and receive a CSCE for use as Element 3 exam credit on or after April 15. This 3B CSCE may be used as Element 3 exam credit for one year during which time they must pass the 5 wpm code. They will then be eligible to obtain a General Class ticket.

Effective April 15, 2000 an applicant passing the new Element 2 exam qualifies for the new (restructured) Technician license...another variation with different handling! The exam will be a 35 question multiple choice test (instead of the current 30) and will be based on a new question pool. Applicants who pass the 5 wpm code exam will not become a Tech Plus operator, but will have Tech Plus privileges (i.e. CW privileges on the 80, 40 and 150 meter bands and both CW and SSB privileges on the 10 meter band) for up to one year. (See new Section 97.301.) The 5 wpm CSCE will expire in 365 days (as per Section 97.97.505(6) from the date the telegraphy exam is passed. If examinees do not pass the new Element 3 (General Class) examination during this period, they will have to retake the 5 wpm code exam. Technician Plus operators (those Techs who have passed a code exam prior to April 14) will retain their code credit indefinitely.

A note to volunteer examiners: You must check the date on the Technician examinee's CSCE. If the applicant is a Tech plus operator (that is a Technician who passed the code exam on April 14, 2000 or before) the examinee receives credit for the 5 wpm code indefinitely. A code exam CSCE dated on or after April 15, 2000 is valid only for 365 days.

CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Many hams know that just because an electronic device is turned off from its power switch, the AC transformer (the black cube known as a "wall wart") still draws current from the power line if it's still plugged in. That's current you must pay for, even if you're not using the device it's supposed to run. The same holds true for today's TV sets and VCRs. They all consume electricity when not being used because they operate in a "standby" or "sleep" mode. Some studies suggest that the annual cost of this wasted electricity approaches $1 billion. The Environmental Protection Agency has set up power requirements for manufacturers of consumer electronic products, encouraging them to design TVs and VCRs to use less than four watts. European cell-phone manufacturers may soon be required to produce battery chargers that use less than 0.2W when no batteries are in place. Better still, unplug them. It saves money and provides the best surge protection possible.

INTERNET NEWS

Walmart Stores, the world's largest retail firm, is teaming with America Online to form a new joint venture Internet access provider. Offered will be a customized version of AOL's Compuserve service. Forty percent of Walmart's "100 million customers a week" currently do not have local access to the

Internet and Walmart wants to expand the Web into smaller communities where it is currently not available. Walmart declined to say what the service would be called, or how much it would cost, but it will not be free. Launch is planned for Spring 2000. As part of the deal, AOL will promote Wal-Mart's newly revamped <www.Wal-mart.com> Website which debuted on January 1.

Not to be outdone, Kmart Corp is forming its own totally free "Blue-light Special" Internet access company by teaming up with Web portal, Yahoo!, Inc. Kmart said a survey shows that 30 percent of its customers are not using the Internet. Kmart's new www.bluelight.com website allows you to download the free service directly from the Web, or you can save it on your hard drive or 4 floppies for later installation. While users will have access to the entire Web through Yahoo!, you can be assured that Kmart products will be featured.

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

Taxes on the Internet will play a major part in the upcoming presidential elections. It has already started. Both Steve Forbes and Sen. John McCain want the current three year moratorium on Internet-based sales taxes to be made more or less permanent.

That puts Gov. George W. Bush in a sticky position since state and local governments almost without exception feel that sales made over the Web should be subject to sales taxes. And they are joined by Main Street merchants who charge unfair competition from Web merchants who can sell for less...much less when you consider overhead savings and another 5 to 10% sales tax savings they can pass on to the customer.

At first Bush said he wanted to wait to see what the bipartisan commission on Internet taxation had to say. Their report is due next April. But that is not going over too well in anti-tax New Hampshire - scene of the nation's first primary.

Now it appears that all presidential candidates - both Republican and Democrat alike - will be taking a position that supports extending the ban for "several" years. But is Congress - and not the president - that writes the laws.

TECHJNOLOGY NEWS BRIEFS

From 1/00 CyberSkip

Kids think Adults Overact to Y2K - Poll. If you want an interesting opinion on anything, ask a child. That's what Junior Achievement, which claims to be the world's largest and fastest growing provider of economic education for young people, did. As part of an end-of-year "Interprise Poll" 1,449 kids, aged 8 to 18, were asked to give their impressions of Y2K.

According to Monte Lutz, manager of marketing for Junior Achievement, a surprising finding of the poll was that 72 percent of the children surveyed believe that adults have overreacted to Y2K. These kids felt that adults have overreacted to potential problems related to the Internet, credit cards, TV and utilities. In fact, the poll found that the older the child, the more that child felt adults were overreacting.

It's not that the children believe there will be no problems, Lutz explained, it's just that they believe adults are making too much of the potential problems.

KENWOOD ASKS FCC TO RULE ON "SKY COMMAND" SYSTEM

Kenwood Communications Corporation has asked the FCC either to declare that its "Sky Command" system complies with Commission rules or to waive applicable sections of the rules to make it legal.

The "Sky Command" system, which Kenwood has been marketing for about two years, lets the user control a fixed HF station via a pair of dual-bank transceivers. Sky Command operates in full duplex, using a 70-cm frequency to transmit audio and control commands to a dualband transceiver at

the remote station and a 2-meter frequency to transmit received audio via the remote station's SkyCommand transceiver to the operator's transceiver. Sky Command's VHF link also includes a Morse code ID.

The ARRL has declined to permit Kenwood to advertise its "Sky Command" system in QST, maintaining that the system is not legal to use as it's configured. The League says that Kenwood's use of a 2-meter frequency would cause amateurs using the system to violate Section 97.201(b), which limits auxiliary operation to certain frequencies above 222.15 MHz.

The League in the past has opposed lowering the minimum frequency for auxiliary operation. The Sky Command issue arose during the ARRL Executive Committee meeting December 4. After some discussion, the EC requested that Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, prepare a paper to explain the rationale for the present rule and to provide a basis for future discussion on whether the restriction was still needed.

In its petition for a declaratory ruling or waiver - filed November 4 but not released until December 15 - Kenwood claims that the Sky Command VHF transmission link "should be viewed as merely providing third party communications" and not as part of an auxiliary link.

"Kenwood is confident that the Sky Command System fully complies with the remote control, telecommand, and auxiliary station provisions of Sections 97.109©, 97.213 and 97.201," the manufacturer told the FCC. Kenwood wants the FCC to confirm in a declaratory ruling that the Sky Command System complies with those rules. But, Kenwood said, if the FCC does not concur, then Kenwood requests a "blanket waiver" of those rules for amateurs using Sky Command.

Kenwood also asks for either a declaratory ruling or a blanket waiver with respect to Section 97.111, which covers authorized transmissions.

The manufacturer says the VHF link complies with the rules because it only carries audio from the HF station receiver, is not involved with telecommand of the remote station, and is under the supervision of the control operator.

Comments on the Kenwood petition are due by January 31, 2000. Reply comments are due by February 14, 2000. Commenters should reference DA 99-2805.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEER JUDGES FOR THE 1999 BOAT PARADE

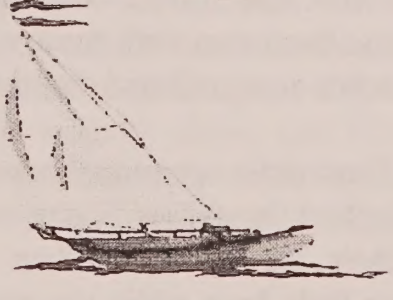
On the evening of December 18, it was cold, wet and raining hard; yet the following 11 volunteers showed up at the Titusville Marine to judge the Christmas Decorated Boats:

AE4LE Ralph Hall KB2ZLH Judy Smith
KC2ENO Art Smith KD4HNW Ken Denman
KE4WQD Cori Summersett
KF4ECM Jim Lathrop KF4ZOLJimmyEdwards
KG4CEB Anthony Hurkala
KT4CQ Bill Simano WA3FKC Ed Summersett

Because the weather was so foul, the boats did not parade. Instead they were judged at the docks. First at the Titusville Marine and then at the Kennedy Point Yacht Club. We were treated to hot coffee and other beverages and asked to join their party when the winners were announced. From the crowd's reaction, it appeared to us that our judging was well received. We were complimented and thanked by everyone for being there.

An Interesting note: Some of the Boat Show participants were not aware of the judging and failed to turn on their lights. They just figured no one would volunteer in such bad weather. I think we proved our diligence by serving when called.

K4MVO, Stephanie Phillips



ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike W4EPU

By now I'm sure most of us have heard or read about the new FCC amateur license regulations. I am also sure there are those of us who are pleased to see CW requirements eased somewhat. I for one am glad to see it happen. I believe the 5 wpm max. requirements will ease the fears of CW that some people have and, not having to worry about code speed, they will actually be better able to learn the code. In essence, what it tells me is that the new requirement is to learn the code without having to worry about code speed. Because copying 5 wpm is no problem if one knows the code well enough to identify each character as surely as if the letter or number was spoken.

With the above in mind and for those who truly desire to learn Morse code, I shall offer some tips that will hopefully be helpful.

First and foremost, Morse code is not about a clean, clear, crisp, coherent, laser-like, 800 (or so) cycle tone. The clean, clear, crisp, coherent, laser-like, 800 (or so) cycle tone is just one of many conveyers for the intelligence contained in the code. Any sound, light or even motion can be used to represent Morse code characters. For example, every time I hear a car horn, a train whistle or a flash of light, I instinctively hear or see a CW character.

Until recently the Navy used blinker lights to send messages in Morse code between ships in convoys.

Did you know that the Morse code letter "Q" is, and has always been sent with train whistles as the train approaches every railroad crossing?

Back when all Ham radio operators knew the code it was commonplace for fellow Hams to chat in traffic using their car horns. When someone behind you toots their horn while you are waiting for a traffic light to change, make sure he is not greeting you with "HI" or something before you raise your clinched fist with the middle finger extended upward. He or she may think you are signaling your IQ.

Now here is my tip which, believe, me, has been proven effective in learning Morse code: In fact, that's the way I learned it. Practice the code by verbally uttering "dit" for a dot, and "Dah" for a dash. Don't worry about the clean, clear, crisp, coherent, laser-like 800 (or so) cycle tone just yet. Unless of course you listen to WWV code practice broadcasts on 7046 Hz. Or other sources of learning, or have your own code practice oscillator for sending practice.

To simulate receiving a character - orally utter the code character then the letter..i.e. for the letter "A", "ditdah, A". To simulate sending a character, utter the letter, then the code character. i.e. "A ditdah, A" To simulate sending a character, utter the letter, then the code character. i.e "A ditdah". In that manner one can practice code anywhere anytime such as on your way to and from work, in bed at night before going to sleep or when you wake up at night and can't go back to sleep. That will put you to sleep...Just don't do it in public. People will think you are nuts.

Start out with five or six characters. You will master them before you know it. Add another set of characters. Work on all ten or so of them. You will be surprised how quickly you will learn all 26 letters and ten numbers.

By all means, just pretend its fun. 73s es 88s

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TREASURERS REPORT

By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

Balance forward from 1999	$4333.03
Deposits Year to Date	560.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$4893.03**
Expenditures	362.17
BALANCE AS AT 1/31/00	**$4530.86**

JANUARY MINUTES

By Becky, KF4HTB

After the usual opening ceremonies, Bud K4CWG told the club how proud he is of Sherry KU4ZO for passing her Extra test.

Charlie KE4KCT gave an update on the progress of Lou N2CTQ. He is in therapy but expects to be home soon. Les K4SJC is in the hospital undergoing tests. Jose KC4VIO gave an update on the progress of Joe W4OPZ who is recovering from a stroke. We wish these mentioned and other members who are under the weather a speedy recovery.

Bill Eppley W2SDB played Happy Birthday and a couple of other tunes on his harmonica. When Bud asked, Bill admitted that he was ?? on his last birthday. (We didn't get permission to print it).

3 new members were voted in and welcomed into the club: KB4ATB Wilbur Legro; Ron Dixon who is awaiting his new call sign and KG4GBA Walter Goetschius.

Ralph Hall AE4LE introduced Dennis Decker KB4TYM from the National Weather Service. Dennis, who heads up the Skywarm Spotter program, gave an interesting program on what types of storm information to pass on to them. He showed videos of different types of storms and how they develop and gave the criterion for reporting to the Weather Service. These are:

1. Tornadoes, waterspouts, funnel clouds.
2. Winds that blow down trees, power lines and damage buildings.
3. Dime size hail or larger.
4. Flooding of homes, buildings or major roads.
5. Include time and direction and distance from a town.

The number one weather killer in Florida is lightning. If lightning is nearby: Move indoors or into a vehicle. Do not use hand held devices such as base station radios and telephones.

When you call give your name, location, time of event and say that you are a skywarn spotter. Be accurate with your report. The National Weather Service may issue or cancel a warning based on your report. If you can't reach the NWS by radio or phone, call 911 and request your severe weather report be forwarded to NWS. Tel.#s are: 800-683-7468 or 407-254-6083.

Club Officers

President: Bud Hughes, K4CWG. 267-3450
V.Pres: Ozzie Osband, N4SCY. 407-LIFTOFF
Sec/Treas: Becky Lee, KF4HTB, 267-9375

Elected Board Members

Ken Denman, KD4HNW. 269-5711
John Renninger, KE4ZPA. 267-9431
Grant Hahne, KF4IGK. 269-6484
Sherry Hughes, KU4ZO

Repeater Custodian Board Members

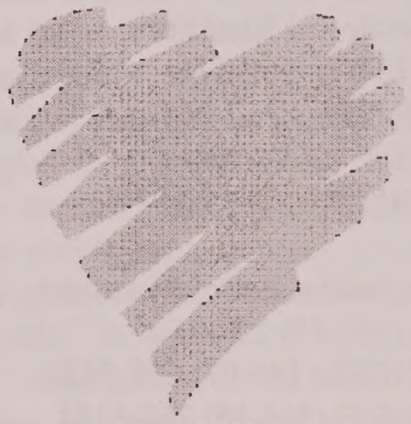
Les Griner, K4SJV (146.91) 267-1565
Warren Murray, W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Dave McLean, WB4SIG (444.15) 267-6181
Larry Carr, WB9MFJ (Packet-Rose Node) 268-4114

Club Information

Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs. at Jaycee Building
Nets: **VIP**-Thursdays at 1000 hrs. 146.910
Friendship-Thursdays at 1830 hrs. 146.910
Mosquito-Wednesdays at 1900 hrs. 28.333
Traders-Fridays at 2000 hrs 146.910

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

FEB 2000



Remember YOUR Valentine

Put

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
Total membership: 227 (155 regular, 54 family, 12 honorary, 6 other)

NEW MEMBERS:
KF4FQW DUANE POCOCK
KG4GBA WALTER GOETSCHIUS
KD4PTU FLORENCE WILSON
AD4FG WALT WILSON

RENEWALS:
KE4AGH VERNON ANDREWS
KS4BD DARWIN McCOMBS
KV4DC ROE WEAVER
K4DVW DICK STAUFER
KC2ENO ART SMITH
KB2ZLH JUDY SMITH N2JY
N4KHU DAVE ROBERTS
AF4LD GARY COMMER
KD4RLT WILLIAM MERRILL

KZ5FG

~~KZ5SEG~~ GEORGE FLORES
KD4UZS JOE CARTER
W4VQB BOB NEDIMYER
N1WBU ART DEANGELIS
WN4YKC DON HATFIELD
KE4JBF JOAN HATFIELD
KF4ZOL JIMMY EDWARDS
WB4ZUY WYNN ROSTEK
WB4ZUZ TERRY VALEK

HAMFESTS:

2/5	Pensacola
2/5-6	Miami
2/13-14	Orlando
2/27	Zephyrhills

OK Bud 12/13/00

Got Down To K4SIT